

2013 Needs Assessment for St. Clair County

Judge Robert L. Minor

District Judge

1815 Cogswell Avenue Suite 208 100 6th Avenue Suite 400

Pell City, Alabama 35125 Ashville, Alabama 35953

205-338-1034 205-594-2194

Cheryl Fagan/Coordinator

Judge Phil Seay

Judge Alan Furr

D. A. Richard Minor

Senator Del Marsh

Senator Scott Beason

Rep. Randy Wood

Rep. Mack Butler

Jenny Seals

Dr. Michael Barber

Dr. Tony Dowdy

David Gray

Carrie Leland

Kevin Hathcock

Stanley Bateman

Paul Manning

Connie Allen

Mike Bowling

Terry Surles

Dionne Stevens

Melinda Splawn

Curtis Gossett

Amanda Carmichael

Jane Glass

Angela Taylor

Tammy Gibbs

Amy Floyd

Gail Benefield

Glenn Magargee

Susan McKim

Julie Marriott

Missy Freshwater

Sharon Jordan

Peggy Mann

Suzette Harrison

Terry Davis

Jonathan Davis

Patsy Isbell

Susan Hood

Billy Murray

Debbie Dukes

Wendy Davis

Amy McKinstry

Latoya Orr

Beth Johns

Bob Boylan

Crystal Crim

Cyndy Henderson

Aisha Martin

Liletta Jenkins

Mitzi Carden

Accomplishments

The St. Clair Children's Policy Council had a great year! We have continued to have bi-monthly meetings, alternating between our two county seats in Ashville and Pell City. Our speakers for these meetings have included District 30 Legislator Mack Butler, VOICES Program Director Rhonda Mann and Beth Johns from Success By Six. One of our local speakers was Jamie Gilmore, Executive Director of our Boys and Girls Club. We have two new non-profits in St. Clair County and their executive directors spoke to us also. They were Dave Bise from the Southern Cultural Arts Foundation and Greg Jacobik from MAPS (Military Assistance Personal Support).

One of the highlights of this year was our participation in the United Way/Hands on Birmingham Back to School Backpack Drive. With the help of the Birmingham group, our area churches and Refuge Ministries, we were able to supply 843 children with backpacks and school supplies. These went to all 27 schools in our St. Clair County area. We also partnered with Refuge Ministries to provide winter coats for all 214 St. Clair County Head Start students. We played a small part in the area "Toys for Children" campaign at Christmas and helped provide toys and gifts for 505 children in Pell City and 96 families in St. Clair County.

Our CPC participated in several community events during the fall of 2012. These include the St. Clair County Health Fair, the Circle of Giving Resource Fair (for area non-profits), and Paws in the Park. We also have representation on the St. Clair Community Service Coalition, a new resource in our county. To

further make our presence known, we became a member of the Pell City and Moody Chambers of Commerce. We also joined VOICES for Alabama's Children.

Our Coordinator attended the Alabama KidCount Regional Meeting, the CPC area workshop and the "Doing What Matters" conference sponsored by the Tuscaloosa County CPC.

During the month of April, the CPC participated in several events in honor of "Child Abuse Awareness Month". Many members and agencies participated in the Blue Ribbon 5K/Fun Run. Our very own Judge Robert Minor won his age group!

We also purchased a table at the Children's Place annual luncheon and helped that group celebrate its 20th anniversary in our county.

We were excited to partner with the Pell City Civitans to purchase 500 coloring/activity books that were given out at the Pell City Block Party in early June. We gave out 291 of these "Have a Safe Summer" books that night and plan to distribute the remaining 209 to area libraries to enhance their summer programs.

Some of the agencies represented on our St. Clair Children's Policy Council had some important accomplishments this year also. Though the CPC did not directly contribute, we were represented well.

- * The YWCA "Purse and Passion" Luncheon raised \$54,000 for our domestic violence shelter. The shelter also provided 32 prom dresses to deserving girls in our county during the "2013 Prom Dress Giveaway".

- * The St. Clair County Red Cross, MAPS and Pell City High School sponsored a successful "Holiday Mail for Heroes" during the Christmas holidays

- * Our St. Clair County Head Start graduated 135 students and 65 adults from their Parent University. They passed federal inspection and was recently awarded an Excellence Grant from the OSR.

- * The Mustard Seed Society, a local counseling resource, held a two day workshop with the 10th graders at Pell City High School. Topics dealt with teen suicide and its causes and prevention. We hope this expands into the county in the fall.

Our St. Clair Children's Policy Council continues to grow and have an effective presence in our county. We have high hopes for the future of our group!

2013 Needs Assessment for St. Clair County

First Priority

Need related to children of this county

Bullying

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
Age appropriate abuse prevention programs in grades K - 8 in all city and county schools through the St. Clair Children's Advocacy Center "Too Good for Violence"/ 5th - 8th grades in Pell City Schools Safe Schools programs expanding in St. Clair County through JBS Mental Health Cyberbullying and Internet Safety through the District Attorney's office Mental Health Providers/ JBS Mental Health, Eastside Mental Health, Bradford Health Services, Mustard Seed Society, New Pathways, School Counselors DAY Program Boys and Girls Club	Funding to purchase student materials to distribute during the abuse prevention programs in the schools. Funding to provide information to parents on issues that children face concerning bullying

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

Asking community civic organizations to consider donating to help purchase needed material

Continue to look for grants that will meet funding issues for new programs

2013 Needs Assessment for St. Clair County

Second Priority

Need related to children of this county

Maintaining a safe home environment for children by addressing domestic violence

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
Domestic Violence prevention programs through the YWCA shelter YWCA Shelter for women and children JBS Mental Health/ Eastside Mental Health CASA DHR/ Protective Services Gateway/ Domestic Violence Intervention Program YWCA Legal Services/ Court Advocate St. Clair County Sheriff's Department St. Clair County District Attorney's Office	Additional resources for counseling through the public and private sector Expand Parent Project to make it more available Address underlying causes of domestic violence

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

Continue to encourage coordination and communication to foster understanding of the policies, procedures and referral process. Make sure families know about the YWCA shelter and legal aid options.

Encourage reporting of domestic violence situations

Seek continued financial support of all abuse prevention programs in area schools/ agencies

2013 Needs Assessment for St. Clair County

Third Priority

Need related to children of this county

Children and youth in St. Clair County are engaging in at-risk and high-risk activities/ behaviors

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
At-Risk Abstinence Program through the St. Clair Children's Advocacy Center, presented to 6th graders in the Pell City School System Early Warning in Pell City and St. Clair County School Systems Ann's New Life Center Boys and Girls Club Parents as Teachers program at Pell City, Ashville and Moody High Schools Mental Health Component/ Mustard Seed Society, JBS Mental Health, Eastside Mental Health, School Counselors, Bradford Health Services, New Pathways St. Clair County Health Department St. Clair County DHR St. Clair County Extension Office/ Family and Child Development Program and SNAP Ed Juvenile Drug Court Juvenile Probation Offices in Pell City and Ashville	Big Brothers/ Big Sisters Funding for Parents as Teachers/ Home Visitation After school/ summer enrichment programs Parent Project

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

Expand At-Risk Abstinence program to 6th graders in St. Clair County schools

Continued support of Early Warning and Family Drug Court